Home Grounds, Gardening, and Home Pests

## V(A). Planned Program (Summary)

## 1. Name of the Planned Program

Home Grounds, Gardening, and Home Pests

# V(B). Program Knowledge Area(s)

## 1. Program Knowledge Areas and Percentage

KA Code	Knowledge Area	%1862 Extension	%1890 Extension	%1862 Research	%1890 Research
102	Soil, Plant, Water, Nutrient Relationships	20%	25%		
111	Conservation and Efficient Use of Water	20%	15%		
125	Agroforestry	0%	20%		
205	Plant Management Systems	40%	0%		
216	Integrated Pest Management Systems	20%	0%		
604	Marketing and Distribution Practices	0%	10%		
608	Community Resource Planning and Development	0%	10%		
724	Healthy Lifestyle	0%	10%		
803	Sociological and Technological Change Affecting Individuals, Families and Communities	0%	10%		
	Total	100%	100%		

# V(C). Planned Program (Inputs)

## 1. Actual amount of professional FTE/SYs expended this Program

<b>Year</b> : 2008	Extension		Research	
	1862	1890	1862	1890
Plan	25.9	6.3	0.0	0.0
Actual	25.7	4.3	0.0	0.0

## 2. Actual dollars expended in this Program (includes Carryover Funds from previous years)

Extension		Research	1
Smith-Lever 3b & 473426	1890 Extension 225989	Hatch 0	Evans-Allen 0
1862 Matching	1890 Matching	1862 Matching	1890 Matching
561337	251525	0	0
1862 All Other	1890 All Other	1862 All Other	1890 All Other
3042312	509416	0	0

Report Date 10/16/2009 Page 1 of 13

## V(D). Planned Program (Activity)

## 1. Brief description of the Activity

The primary activities in this area include four statewide Extension Team Projects. These are:

- 1. Urban Horticulture Initiatives utilized horticulture as a therapy or tool to: modify behavior and increase activity levels of youth demonstrate environmentally compatible landscapes increase the quality of life of the elderly
- 2. The New and Nontraditional Horticulture Enterprises program provides educational horticulture programs and demonstrations for small, limited income and urban commercial producers. These programs include: organic production, beekeeping small fruits, shiitake mushrooms, rainwater collection for commercial producers, farmers' markets
- 3. Backyard BMP (will become Smart Yards in (09): The purpose of the Backyard BMP's program is to provide current, research-based instruction in home yard and garden topics through a series of subject-matter workshops. The specific objective in 2008 was to provide in-depth instruction related to best management practices related to managing pests, managing water, managing soil, plant selection, and other resource inputs that affect both gardening success and surrounding environments. Master Gardeners conducted demonstrations on pruning and water Mgt for the public. This ETP educated the consumer to better understand the resources they use and the potential impacts of gardening activities.
- 4. Master Gardener: The MG ETP is designed to recruit & train volunteer leaders to assist county offices of the ACES in disseminating knowledge and information relative to landscaping and gardening applicable to their area of Alabama. The service of Master Gardener volunteers directly benefits their communities by providing leadership and involving others in beautification projects, environmental stewardship projects, community gardens, other horticulture-related projects, and horticulture-related educational programs.

#### 2. Brief description of the target audience

- 1. The urban horticulture program is currently located in ten Alabama counties that represent just over 2 million people or 45% of Alabama's residents. The audiences targeted directly included: a. 65,000 local residents and tourists visiting the Anniston Museum of Natural History b. 620 homeowners interested in gardening c. 50 extended care facility residents d. 700 youth-at-risk, and 24 residents at special needs facilities e. Indirectly over 2 million elderly, youth, gardeners, homeowners, and urban residents in Alabama received some form of educational material from Urban Regional Extension Agents and specialists.
- 2. Alabama has about 45,000 agricultural farm enterprises that gross over \$3 billion per year (2002 Agriculture Census). However, 80% of these farms gross less than \$10,000 per year. There are 2,955 fruit and vegetable producers in the state that earn over \$61 million per year, but only \$20,707 per farm. The state also boasts 2,500 beekeepers housing 12,000 hives producing \$1 million worth of honey. Two Urban Regional Extension Agents and one Horticulture Specialist allocate 0.86 FTE to presenting educational programs to:
  - a. small, limited income/resource and urban commercial producers.
- b. In Marshall and Lawrence Counties, where these programs are primarily conducted, there are 127 registered fruit and vegetable producers
  - c. In Lawrence County there are 40 beekeepers.
- 3. Most participants are found through mass media, trade publications and newspapers, flyers and word-of-mouth.
- 4. Statewide programs are conducted as requested and the audience includes organic producers, medicinal plant producers, small, limited-resource farmers and other interested clientele.
- 5. The MG program is specifically designed to train community volunteers who will disseminate research-based information. There were 26 host locations recruiting volunteers from 31 counties.
- 6. Backyard BMP were workshops designed educate residential non-commercial gardeners.Instruction included drip irrigation installation, vegetable variety selection, pest management in vegetable gardens and home lawns, wildlife management in home landscapes, fireant management in home landscapes, pruning ornamentals, soil testing, growing blueberries, composting, and other care/maitenance principles for ornamentals.Participants from 41 counties attended 81 workshops/demonstrations.
- 7. Homeowners in 1.5+ million Alabama households contribute \$1 billion to Green Industry retail sales. These consumers continue to need infomation to better understand and manage the resources that contribute to and impact garden/landscape related activities.

Report Date 10/16/2009 Page 2 of 13

## V(E). Planned Program (Outputs)

## 1. Standard output measures

Target for the number of persons (contacts) reached through direct and indirect contact methods

V <sub>2</sub> = 0	Direct Contacts Adults	Indirect Contacts Adults	Direct Contacts Youth	Indirect Contacts Youth
Year	Target	Target	Target	Target
Plan	55000	600000	20000	200000
2008	10521	2931181	4263	16018

## 2. Number of Patent Applications Submitted (Standard Research Output)

## **Patent Applications Submitted**

Year Target Plan: 0
2008: 0

#### **Patents listed**

## 3. Publications (Standard General Output Measure)

	Extension	Research	Total
Plan	0	0	
2008	0	0	0

Report Date 10/16/2009 Page 3 of 13

## V(F). State Defined Outputs

# Output Target Output #1

#### **Output Measure**

This program area will include numerous output activities and methods as part of the Extension Team Projects (ETPs) which are described/explained in the prior "outcome activities and methods sections." The success of many of these outcomes will be formally evaluated/measured by using individual activity evaluation forms designed specifically for each activity, the success of other activities and methods will be measured by the level of participation in the activity. In the target boxes below for each year, we are indicating the number of individual activities within the ETPs for this program area that will be formally evaluated using an evaluation instrument designed specifically for that activity.

Not reporting on this Output in this Annual Report

## Output #2

## **Output Measure**

Number of Master Gardener Interns certified.

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 559

#### Output #3

## **Output Measure**

Meetings/classes/field days, and conferences for 1,669 clientele, on various aspects of community gardening, ornamental gardening, environmental landscaping, rainwater collection, beekeeping, farmers markets, shiitake mushrooms and organic production.

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 180

#### Output #4

## **Output Measure**

Non-refereed publications, on horticulture topics that were distributed to 4,782 clientele.

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 11

#### Output #5

## **Output Measure**

Newspaper articles, radio and TV horticulture programs viewing audience.

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 2116166

## Output #6

#### **Output Measure**

Hours clientele spent viewing web-based publications and articles.

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 283

#### Output #7

## **Output Measure**

Volunteer hours in urban horticulture programs such as horticulture therapy, nontraditional horticulture crop production, drought tolerant ornamental demonstrations, farmers' market development

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 4799

#### Output #8

#### **Output Measure**

Value of volunteer time in urban horticulture programs such as horticulture therapy, nontraditional horticulture crop production, drought tolerant ornamental demonstrations, farmers' market development

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 86627

## Output #9

#### **Output Measure**

Dollar value of grants funded for rainwater collection, shiitake production, and horticulture therapy.

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 30896

Report Date 10/16/2009 Page 4 of 13

## Output #10

#### **Output Measure**

Number of program evaluations conducted on a new Farmers' Market and horticulture therapy programs

Year Target Actual

2008 {No Data Entered} 2

## Output #11

#### **Output Measure**

Attendance by clientele at small fruit, organic, shiitake mushroom, rainwater collection, farmers' market, and beekeeping meetings, field days, workshops.

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 1669

#### Output #12

## **Output Measure**

Donations received for farmers' market, rainwater collection demonstrations, organic production/shiitake mushroom/rainwater collection field days, and ornamental and community garden demonstrations.

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 83458

#### Output #13

#### **Output Measure**

Income generated from plant sales that sustain horticulture therapy programs.

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 9500

#### Output #14

## **Output Measure**

Number of beekeeping, shiitake mushroom, rainwater collection demonstrations.

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 28

## Output #15

#### **Output Measure**

Number of clientele made aware of urban programs including ornamental horticulture, drought tolerant plants, horticulture therapy programs, rainwater collection, shiitake mushrooms, beekeeping, farmers' markets, small fruits and organic production.

Year Target Actual
2008 {No Data Entered} 3003427

#### Output #16

#### **Output Measure**

Number of evaluations conducted on participants in horticulture therapy.

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 94

#### Output #17

#### **Output Measure**

Number of publicity articles written about urban horticulture programs including organic production, shiitake mushrooms, rainwater collection, small fruits, farmers' markets, horticulture therapy, and drought tolerant gardens.

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 39

## Output #18

## **Output Measure**

Number of people exposed to publicity articles written about urban horticulture programs including organic production, shiitake mushrooms, rainwater collection, small fruits, farmers' markets, horticulture therapy, and drought tolerant gardens.

Year Target Actual
2008 {No Data Entered} 881026

#### Output #19

## **Output Measure**

Number of newspaper, radio, TV and web articles published about horticulture therapy, small fruits, organic production, shiitake mushrooms, rainwater collection, farmers' markets, drought tolerant gardens, and community gardens.

Report Date 10/16/2009 Page 5 of 13

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 104

Output #20

## **Output Measure**

Number of partnership and Program Advisory Committee meetings for urban horticulture programs

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 27

Output #21

#### **Output Measure**

Number of success stories written about horticulture therapy programs, educational ornamental gardens, grape pruning, nontraditional horticulture enterprises, small fruits, organic production, shiitake mushrooms and rainwater collection

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 9

Output #22

## **Output Measure**

Number of people attending Backyard BMP wksps - increased public awareness of resource management for home gardens, grounds and pests.

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 4426

Output #23

#### **Output Measure**

Number of volunteers that helped increase public awareness of resource management related to home gardens, grounds and pests in 14 Helpline offices.

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 559

Output #24

#### **Output Measure**

Increased the number of citizens who directly receive research-based information from the ACES - # of new volunteers + # workshop participants

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 4985

Output #25

#### **Output Measure**

Number of Master Gardener classes hosted encompassing participants from 31 counties

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 26

Output #26

#### **Output Measure**

Number of workshops and demonstrations conducted to increased public awareness and concern of resource management related to home landscapes.

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 81

Output #27

## **Output Measure**

Number of Advanced Master Gardener volunteer trainings in subject areas related to Backyard BMP's (water management, ornamental care & maintenance, drip irrigation). Training for vol's to assist/conduct BMP workshops.

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 22

Output #28

#### **Output Measure**

Number of agent training sessions conducted in the Water Smart program

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 3

Report Date 10/16/2009 Page 6 of 13

## Output #29

## **Output Measure**

Number of workshops/demos where pre- and post-tests or surveys were given. Only six of these gave solid information of participant s knowledge gain.

Year Target Actual 2008 {No Data Entered} 24

## Output #30

## **Output Measure**

Number of success stories written about Advanced MG - Water Smart training, drip irrigation in home gardens, horticulture field day, fireant education, home grounds wkshps, MG Helpline success

Year	Target	Actual
2008	{No Data Entered}	7

Report Date 10/16/2009 Page 7 of 13

# $V(\mbox{G})$ . State Defined Outcomes

O No.	Outcome Name
1	A major outcome will be the number of regional horticultural hot-line centers that are created and staffed by Master Gardener Volunteers.
2	Each ACES employee is required to provide a success story on the program activity which they felt best demonstrates the impacts of their work. These success stories contain the following elements: Why: Explain the
	reason the program was done, or the situation or problem that the program addressed What: Specifically what
	was done and how it was done. When: If this was a one-time event, the date it occurred. If it is was a series of
	events, or an on-going program, when it began. Where: Specific location the county or counties involved. Who and how many: The "who" includes both who did the program and who were the clients of the program, as well
	as how many people were served. So what: This is the part that gives the real meaning to "success". The basic
	question to be answered in this part is "what difference did this program make". The difference may be
	measured in terms of dollars, or in changes in habits, lifestyles or attitudes. Whenever possible use numbers to show the effect of the program. If it is not possible to use numbers, provide a qualitative measurement like client
	comments or another type of testimonial about the program. Since this program area is very broad in scope and
	contains multiple Extension Team Projects which have different outcomes measures, the impacts for this
	program area are best measured in the number and quality of the success stories generated by the individuals who work on these projects. Therefore, one very significant outcome measure is the number of success stories
	generated.
3	0 Master Cardenar Interna knowledge gain (9/)
4 5	Master Gardener Interns knowledge gain (%) Number of previously certified Master Gardeners remaining active
6	Volunteer hours reported by Interns and Certified Master Gardeners
7 8	Hours contributed to the Horticulture Helpline  Number of clients served by the ACES Horticulture Helpline.
9	Increased awareness and knowledge of landscape best management practices (pre/post tests) 78 participants
	at six workshops (% knowledge gained)
10 11	Combined percent knowledge gain for 53 Master Gardeners in Advanced training for Water Smart Value of volunteer hours (\$)
12	Percent of participants in the public horticulture workshops/demonstrations (Backyard BMPs) indicating an
13	understanding of the importance of the principles presented. Knowledge gain (%) of 691 participants in horticulture therapy, ornamental horticulture, rainwater collection,
13	shiitake mushroom, small fruit and farmers' market programs.
14	Level of behavior improvement (%) as indicated by 82 horticulture therapy program participants.
15 16	Improved attitude (%) towards school and grades as perceived by 82 horticulture therapy program participants. Improved self-esteem (%) as perceived by 82 horticulture therapy program participants.
17	Improved attitude (%) towards getting and keeping a job as perceived by horticulture therapy program
40	participants.
18 19	Improved sense of responsibility (%) as perceived by 82 horticulture therapy program participants. Improved discipline (%) as perceived by 82 horticulture therapy program participants.
20	Increased activity levels (%) as perceived by horticulture therapy program participants.
21	Program value (\$) of horticulture therapy programs as perceived by partners, supervisors, councilors, teachers and principals.
22	Income from plant sales that sustained two horticulture therapy programs.
23	Increase in production as a result of an irrigation demonstration (%)
24	Volunteer support for urban horticulture therapy programs and nontraditional horticulture enterprises increased the amount of FTEs available to conduct programs (FTEs)
25	Jobs created as a result of increased participation in ornamental horticulture programs.
26 27	Youth participating in community gardens increased their annual activity levels (hours/year)  Number of students mainstreamed from an alternative school to a regular school as a result (in part) of a
21	community garden that was part of their daily routine.
28	Percent knowledge gain about shiitake mushrooms and rainwater collection.
29	Increased income of 6 beekeepers and 1 shiitake mushroom producer as a result of demonstrations and workshops.
30	The Moulton Farmers' Market that was established as a result of Urban Horticulture Workshops, reduced the
	number of miles each producer must drive to market (average miles saved/trip to market)
31	Dollar savings for each Moulton Farmers' Market producer due to the decrease in drive time and mileage to market produce.
32	Percent of producers indicating that they improved their income at the Moulton Farmers' Market compared to
	previous marketing experiences.

Report Date 10/16/2009 Page 8 of 13

- Dollar value increase for watermelons as a result of bee pollination in by beekeepers trained by Urban Agents (estimated value).

  Number of acres pollinated by bee raised by beekeeper demonstrators.

  Number of producers that took their produce to the New Moulton Farmers' Market.
  - Gallons of rainwater saved/collected for commercial crop production irrigation.
  - 37 Observed behavioral changes of horticulture therapy program participants.

Report Date 10/16/2009 Page 9 of 13

# Home Grounds, Gardening, and Home Pests **Outcome #1**

#### 1. Outcome Measures

Not reporting on this Outcome for this Annual Report

## 2. Associated Institution Types

- 3a. Outcome Type:
- 3b. Quantitative Outcome

Year Quantitative Target Actual

## 3c. Qualitative Outcome or Impact Statement

Issue (Who cares and Why)

What has been done

Results

## 4. Associated Knowledge Areas

KA Code Knowledge Area

## V(H). Planned Program (External Factors)

#### **External factors which affected outcomes**

Natural Disasters (drought, weather extremes, etc.)

Economy

Appropriations changes

Public Policy changes

**Government Regulations** 

Competing Programmatic Challenges

Populations changes (immigration,new cultural groupings,etc.)

Other (Bee Colony Collapse; Learning curve of new producers, fuel prices, grant funding decrease)

Report Date 10/16/2009 Page 10 of 13

#### **Brief Explanation**

- a) The downturn in the economy during the later part of 2008, the price of gas, changes in population, and competition from other volunteer programs all affect the personal priorities that influence our clients' decisions for budgeting time and money in day-to-day living.
  - b) Higher fuel prices; volunteers seeking employment and no longer able to volunteer
- c) We were able to conduct Water Smart for our Advanced MG's due to grant funding from the Southern Region Water Quality Project
- d) Learning how to create and deliver high quality evaluation instruments for programs is a challenge when we lack a professional within ACES to assist agents in this task; the challenge is to simultaneously plan program logistics, develop programs, deliver programs and then independently learn how to create evaluation instruments The poor economy has resulted in fewer monetary donations and lessened spending at fund raising plant sales.
- e) The drought was responsible for the reduction of plant sale income and the decline in new plantings at the museum gardens and other community gardens and reduced production and quality and forced many producers to learn about irrigation and the benefits.
  - f) Rotation of youth in classes and in and out of programs makes it difficult to evaluate the program effectively.
- g) People always appear to be interested but when it is time to implement the program the Extension Agent is left all alone.
- h) Due to the lack of volunteer and /or parental involvement the initial garden establishment was done solely by the students who took more time than expected and planting was delayed. Parents and volunteers also bring order and discipline, which was absent.
  - i) Loss of property on which garden was established.
- j) The youth gardening program in the Bessemer Elementary schools (GEM Program) had a miscommunication amongst partners that caused the program to not perform as it should have. k) Bee colony collapse claimed over 35% of US colonies during the winter of 2007-8. However, over 51% were lost in the demonstrations, some of which can be attributed to beekeeper neglect. I) New producers at the Farmers' Market did not know enough about vegetable varieties, ways to extent the crop season and irrigation.

## V(I). Planned Program (Evaluation Studies and Data Collection)

#### 1. Evaluation Studies Planned

Before-After (before and after program)

During (during program)

Report Date 10/16/2009 Page 11 of 13

#### **Evaluation Results**

The Traditional Horticulture Programs were evaluated with the following results:

- 1. MG ETP had impact value=\$2,240,172 and = to 534 full time employees (FTEs):
- 2. 559 MG's contributed 5,892 vol hours (\$106,056) to the Helpline, a tollfree number assisting 4,375 clients with gardening questions and problems.
- 3. 5,783 hours (\$104,267) were contributed by 1,984 Master Gardeners in other areas of ACES support, such as assisting Extension programs, or conducting school programs such as Outdoor Classrooms. Notable projects included: informational booths at plant sales/clinics, at local and county fairs, and a Heritage Festival; assistance at a County Water Festival; installed drip irrigation demo's to educate the public; BMP wksps for homeowners; horticulture therapy for hospice patients and adult daycare clients; landscaping play and common areas at crisis centers, grief counseling buildings, and hospice homes; benefit plant sales; sponsoring a Farmers' Market which educated the advantages of sustainable, local food production as well as providing for community access to fresh, nutritious local produce.
- 4. 86% of respondents at a RIFA workshop/demo said they will use the "two step" method of mgt. This method is preferred due to decrease in cost per acre, more effective control for longer period, and decreased toxic threat to people, pets and wildlife. (ANR 1297)
- 5. 44% of respondents at a RIFA workshop/demo responded they will change their RIFA mgt due to a new knowledge of cost savings
- 6. 3262% of respondents at two Backyard Tomato workshop/demo's responded they learned planting and training techniques for better fruit production
- 7. 22% of respondents at one Backyard Tomato workshop/demo responded they learned the basics of drip irrigation installation for the home garden. Drip irrigation reduces weed growth, is up to 90% efficient and can reduce expenses associated with municipal water. (CSU Extension fact sheet 7.239)
- 8. 96% of respondents at a Backyard Blueberry workshop/demo responded they'll increase consumption of blueberries as a result of our workshop. Blueberries benefit human health with high levels of essential dietary minerals and dietary fiber, and have a role in reducing risks of some diseases. (USDA Nutrient Data National Cancer Inst)
  - 9. 11 behavioral questions were asked of 82 of 256 at risk program participants.
  - a. improved their behavior by 16.1%
  - b. grades and attitude toward school +7.1%
  - c. activity levels +21.75%
  - d. attitude toward getting and keeping a job +18.1%.
- 10. Hort therapy program partners evaluated changes they observed in participants by evaluating 8 categories of behavior:
  - a. 45% noted an extremely positive change
  - b. 61% improvement in participants' self esteem and responsibility
  - c. 79% an improvement in discipline
  - d. 85% an increase in activity levels and motivation to finish high school
  - e. valued the programs at \$873,115.
  - 11. A 2007 study of the Coosa Valley Youth Services Ctr found that:
  - a. 70% of the alumni surveyed are back in school or seeking a GED
  - b. 34% have jobs
- c. 102 graduates each year obtain jobs and generate a combined annual income of \$1+ million their first year after CVYS with aggregated economic impact estimated ~\$4+ million annually
  - 12. An evaluation of the Moulton Farmers' Market determined:
  - a. 94% had less than 10 acres
  - b. 83% of producers reported the market increased their returns
- c. reduced travel by 16.1 miles/producer/market visit (~1,000 miles/ year/each producer) saving each ~\$1,085 per year for gas, vehicle maintenance, and time spent traveling
  - d. average sales per day = \$216/producer; weekly sales for 82% of the respondents were \$262
  - e. 89% of customers found what they wanted at the market and replied they would probably or definitely return
  - f. 79% plan to increase the quantity of produce purchased

Report Date 10/16/2009 Page 12 of 13

#### **Key Items of Evaluation**

- 1. The Urban Affairs and New Nontraditional Programs Unit had the following key Impacts:
- 2. 180 meetings/field days for 1,669 clients on: community and ornamental gardening, environmental landscaping, small fruit, vegetable and organic production, rainwater collection, shiitake mushrooms, farmers' markets and beekeeping
  - 3. 28,000+ visits/tours of rainwater collection, shiitake mushroom or beekeeping demo's
- 4. 97 publications, newspaper articles, radio and TV programs on horticulture topics were distributed to or potentially viewed/heard by 2,126,612 clients
  - 5. 5 grants were received = \$30,896
  - 6. Plant sales generated \$9500 sustaining two horticulture therapy programs
  - 7. \$70,000 was contributed to build a farmers' market the site of ~\$113,000 sales its first year
  - 8. +82% of producers indicated that their income increased as a result of the market
  - 9. Producers saved ~\$1,035/producer/year in travel costs and travel time
  - 10. Rainwater collection demonstrations harvested 10,000 gallons of water
  - 11. Demonstrator income increased \$56,275
  - 12. Clients increased their knowledge by 49.5%.
  - 13. At risk horticulture therapy program participants improved their behavior by 16.1%
  - a. grades and attitude toward school improved by 7.1%
  - b. 21.8% increase in activity level
  - c. increase of 18.1% in attitude toward getting and keeping a job.
  - 14. Program partners felt participant school grades and behavior improved 45%
  - a. 61% an improvement in self esteem and sense of responsibility
  - b. 79% an improvement in discipline
  - c. 85% an increase in motivation to finish high school
  - d. Valued programs at \$873,115
- 15. Volunteers in this program = 2.6 FTEs or 4,799 volunteer hours saving \$86,627 in salaries to deliver same or similar programs
  - 16. Traditional Horticulture Programs had the following Impacts:
  - 17. MG volunteer assistance to ACES and Alabama = 534 full time employees and \$2,240,172
- 18. Traditional Home Grounds programming Agents conducted a record number of workshops/demo's under the 2008 Backyard BMP project 81 compared to 28 in 2007
- 19. In 2007 we had 955 participants; in 2008 we had 4,426 participants. Examples of workshop/demo's were: fire ant mgt; drip irrigation; growing tomatoes and blueberries; and general BMP's for home landscapes
  - 20. Surveys and pre/post tests indicated participants' knowledge gain and a desire to change behavior:
- a. 86% of respondents at a RIFA workshop/demo said they'll use the "two step" mgt method. This method decreases cost per acre, is more effective control for longer period, and decreases toxic threat to people, pets and wildlife
- b. 3262% of respondents at two Backyard Tomato workshop/demo's responded they learned planting/training techniques for better fruit production
- c. 22% of respondents at one Backyard Tomato workshop/demo responded they learned the basics of drip irrigation installation. Drip irrigation reduces weed growth, is up to 90% efficient and reduces expenses associated with municipal water
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Report Date 10/16/2009 Page 13 of 13